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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/528,030	08/30/2005	Masamichi Iida	0121/0051	9286
21395	7590	06/25/2007		
LOUIS WOO LAW OFFICE OF LOUIS WOO 717 NORTH FAYETTE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER AHMED, MASUD	
			ART UNIT 3709	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 06/25/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/528,030

Applicant(s)

IIDA, MASAMICHI

Examiner

Masud Ahmed

Art Unit

3709

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-4 and 6-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-4 and 6-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/16/05 and 8/30/05.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

The examiner has considered information Disclosure Statement provided by the applicant on 8/30/05 and 03/16/05.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Claims 3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
2. Regarding claim 3, the phrase "and the like" renders the claim(s) indefinite because the claim(s) include(s) elements not actually disclosed (those encompassed by "and the like"), thereby rendering the scope of the claim(s) unascertainable. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 2-4 and 6-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Olsen (US 6,146,273).

Regarding claim 2, Olsen discloses plurality of gaming terminals, which collects medals and pays prizes according to the game result (col 5, lines 7-15). The management device 200 for the jackpot which is connected to these plural gaming terminals and the management device comprised of determining jackpot payout is

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possible or not (col 6, lines 31-45). A notification for the players announced or displayed when the special game will be held (col 7, lines 50-64). Players solely compete with each other to win the special game for the purpose of winning jackpot (col 5, lines 40-47). Management device 200 determines the outcome of the special game through the gaming terminal and pay out jackpot (col 6, lines 31-54). The players continuously play special game until the jackpot is paid (col 6, lines 41-54 and col 8, lines 35-54).

Regarding claim 3, Olsen further teaches management device 200 accumulates certain contribution for the special jackpot game to start and determines possible jackpot payout amount (col 7, lines 66-67 and col 8, lines 1-10)

Regarding claim 4, Olsen teaches multiple gaming machines must be in play in order to accumulate jackpot and is controlled by the management device 200 (col 7, lines 3-49).

Regarding claim 6, Olsen discloses special game notification includes an announcement of the game or visual display, which can be considered as countdown time for the game (col 7, lines 50-60).

Regarding claim 7, Olsen teaches a player contributing certain amount of wagering immediately prior to the game start can be eligible to play the special game to compete for the bonus jackpot game (col 7, lines 61-67 and col 8, lines 1-10).

Regarding Claims 8-12, these claims are rejected under the same above references disclosed by Olsen (US 6,146,273).

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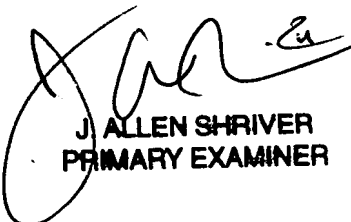
Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Olsen (US 6,210,275)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Masud Ahmed whose telephone number is 571 270 1315. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9:30am-5: 30pm, Alt Fri, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Jackson can be reached on 571 272 4697. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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06/08/07


J ALLEN SHRIVER
PRIMARY EXAMINER